(c) Rates of other taxes and levies on these products by the State Governments vary from State to State, and details of the same are maintained by the respective States.

Gas in Krishna Godavari Basin

49. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has struck gas in the Krishna Godavari basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when production will start?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Krishna Godavari onland basin, the commercial gas find was made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) in Razole structure in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh in 1983. The first gas find in offshore was made at GS-8 prospect in 1987. ONGC has established 97.68 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) and 40.14 BCM of initial inplace volume of gas in onland and offshore Krishna-Godavari Basin respectively in its operational areas. In addition, Ravva and Joint Venture fields in Krishna Godavari offshore where ONGC has a 40% share, has 11.89 BCM of in-place volume of gas.

(c) In the Krishna Godavari onland basin, commercial production of gas started from Razole field in October 1988. In offshore, gas production started from GS-15 and GS-23 fields in 2001.

As on 1.5.2004, 24 finds including two offshore, were producing 4.9 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters per day (MMSCMD) of gas in the Krishna Godavari Basin. In addition, the natural gas production from the Ravva joint venture field is around 2.61 MMSCMD.

Export of diesel to Pakistan

50. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to export diesel to Pakistan for betterment of Indo-pak ties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what route will be used for the export?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. has initiated preliminary contacts with oil companies in Pakistan for the export of diesel to them.

(b) and (c) The details have not been worked out yet.

Price Hike of crude oil in International market

†51. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assessment of the loss suffered by the oil companies due to increase in prices of crude oil in the international market;

(b) if so, the assessment of the amount of loss upto the end of May, 2004; and

(c) The burden passed on by Government on itself, consumers as well as the oil companies in order to recover the loss?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The profit or loss of oil companies is reflected in the Quarterly/Yearly financial results of the companies.

(c) Taking into consideration the prevalent high international oil prices, the oil marketing companies (OMCs) sought to increase the consumer prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG and PDS kerosene. However, if the full impact of high international oil prices was passed entirely on to the consumers, it would have meant too much of burden on them. Therefore, the Government decided to share the burden by reducing excise duties on petrol, diesel and LPG. The following reduction was effected in the *ad valorem* excise duty rates on petrol, diesel and LPG effective 16.6.2004:

Product	Reduction in *ad valorem* excise duty rates effective 16.6.04
Petrol	26%, down from 30%
Diesel	11%, down from 14%
LPG	8%, down from 16%

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi